



August 5, 2016, Conference Call, Topeka, Kansas

July 12, 2016, Liberal, Kansas

April 5, 2016, Liberal, Kansas

January 19, 2016, Liberal, Kansas

**Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting-
Conference Call**
8:00 AM August 5, 2016

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Proposed Category</i>	<i>Present</i>
Nick Hatcher	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	Y
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public	Y
Michael Bryant	SW, HS, GR, ME, ST Counties	Agriculture 2	N
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Y
Kirk Heger	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	N
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	N
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	N
Danny Law	Ulysses, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	N
Vacant		At Large Public	N
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	Y
Jim Sipes	Stanton County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Y
Ellen Verell	Meade, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Y
Michael Arndt	SV County	At Large Public	N

Others in attendance:

Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions: Nick Hatcher welcomed everyone as self-introductions were made.

Action Plans: Discussion of the revised and reorganized Action Plan was held. The addition of action for non-irrigation users was discussed with two additional bullets to be added under the combined actions for Goals #1 & #2. These will be stand alone points in addition to the existing references to municipal use under Goal #3;

- Public water suppliers and industrial users should consider alternative uses of non-potable water and existing water supplies before developing any new water supplies.
- Public water suppliers should consider water rate structures to promote water conservation.

Discussion was also held on additional action regarding reuse in the oil and gas industry. No actions to be added at this time.

Jim Sipes made the motion to approve the Cimarron Regional Goals Action Plan as reorganized, and edited with the addition of the two action step bullets. Calvin Burke seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 by chairman Nick Hatcher.



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting- 9:30 am July 12, 2016 Liberal, Kansas

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Proposed Category</i>	<i>Present</i>
Nick Hatcher	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	Y
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public	N
Michael Bryant	SW, HS, GR, ME, ST Counties	Agriculture 2	Y
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Y
Kirk Heger	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	Y
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	Y
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	Y
Danny Law	Ulysses, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	N
Vacant		At Large Public	N
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	N
Jim Sipes	Stanton County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Y
Ellen Verell	Meade, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Y
Vacant		At Large Public	N

Others in attendance:

Gary Boldt, Sherrie Martin (SV CO Con Dist), Leslie Spikes (NRCS), Jason Norquest (GMD3), Mike Meyer (KDA-DWR), Orrin Feril (CKWBA), Armando Zarco (KDA-DWR), Kenny Sullivan (KCC), Richard Rockel (KWO), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions: Nick Hatcher welcomed everyone as self-introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda: The draft agenda was accepted.

Meeting Notes: There were no changes to the April meeting notes as presented.

KWA feedback on the draft Action Plan for the Cimarron Region Goals: Nick Hatcher explained KWA comments focused on a suggestion to identify specific areas to target programs and water saving efforts. Lengthy discussion occurred on benefits and issues involved with targeting. It was consensus that areas running out of water would not necessarily be best to meet goal and maintain economics of the region but have been identified as priority areas by GMD3. Targeting to reduce withdrawals to extend aquifer life and reduce the decline needs to include areas where the aquifer has water to save. Educational efforts should be to the entire region. There was consensus that state and federal programs should continue to be coordinated.

Timeline for Action Plans: Diane Knowles reviewed action plan timeline. KWA will review those ready September 1 and all others in October in preparation for the November water conference and subsequent development into the Kansas Water Plan.

Blue Ribbon Task Force: Diane Knowles provided a working table of fees the Task Force is using to consider for funding the State Water Plan in the future. (This can be found at www.kwo.org/BlueRibbonTaskForce.html). The

Membership: Nick Hatcher, Chair, Liberal, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Kirk Heger, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Danny Law, Ulysses, KS; Bret Rooney, Satanta, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Ellen Verell, Meade, KS; **KWO Planner:** Diane Knowles 785-296-3185



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

next meeting will be August 4. Discussion included difficulties in increasing taxes, and the draft “formula” being disproportionate to benefits in the irrigated west.

Water Technology Farm Overview: Diane Knowles reported that the Tom Willis Water Technology Farm (Finney County) Field Day will be August 2. Discussion occurred on the equipment, monitoring, water savings and more on the three year project.

Goals: Discussion of all four goals was combined due to the strong relationship among them. Orrin Feril provided an overview of the Central Kansas Water Bank Association, the only water bank in Kansas. This is an example of one but many facets of this one may not work in the Cimarron region due to the difference in the hydrologic systems. There was much discussion and some interest in a regional water bank, especially the Savings Account aspect. It was noted that a WCA may give similar benefits.

Continued discussion of the action plan resulted in agreement to combine actions for Goals 1 and 2, with goal 3 identified as a strategy to meet them and goal 4 also a strategy and measure of progress. Diane will reorganize the plan, eliminating duplicate actions and clarifying based on today’s discussion. She will send to RAC for comment and changes, then schedule a conference call when it seems complete, hopefully within 3 weeks.

Agency Updates

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #3: Jason Norquest noted GMD 3 has had an economic study completed that evaluated resource conditions in 50 years if pumping continues as it has been. The GMD has a grant to study technology and gather data which is needed to get the technologies eligible for incentive programs. In addition the RCPP soil moisture probe project is discussing constraints that have kept the participation down and attempting to adjust program eligibility.

Future Meetings

Nick Hatcher will represent the RAC at the Aug/Sept Kansas Water Authority
Cimarron RAC: will schedule a conference call to finalize the action plan in 2-3 weeks.

Membership: Nick Hatcher, Chair, Liberal, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Kirk Heger, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Danny Law, Ulysses, KS; Bret Rooney, Satanta, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Ellen Verell, Meade, KS; **KWO Planner:** Diane Knowles 785-296-3185

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30 pm April 5, 2016

Liberal, Kansas

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Proposed Category</i>	<i>Present</i>
Nick Hatcher	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	Y
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public	Y
Michael Bryant	SW, HS, GR, ME, ST Counties	Agriculture 2	N
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Y
Kirk Heger	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	Y
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	Y
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	Y
Danny Law	Ulysses, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	N
Vacant		At Large Public	N
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	Y
Jim Sipes	Stanton County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Y
Ellen Verell	Meade, KS	At Large Public (cc)	N
Michael Arndt	SV County	At Large Public	N

Others in attendance:

Mandy Fox, Jim Whitt, Gary Boldt, Mark Rude (GMD3), Jason Norquest (GMD3), Lane Letourneau (KDA), Mike Meyer (KDA), Susan Metzger (KDA), Tracy Streeter, (KWO), Richard Rockel (KWO), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions: Nick Hatcher welcomed everyone to the RAC meeting. Self introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda: The draft agenda with the addition of item “Blue Ribbon Task Force”, was accepted.

Meeting Notes: The January meeting notes were approved as presented.

Update on Water Conservation Areas (WCA) and DWR Proposed Rules and Regulations: Susan Metzger or Mike Meyer

Chairman Nick Hatcher began the discussion stressing the RAC needs to be effective, and how can this be achieved. Further discussion included the need to encourage conservation and change community perception of WCAs, and perceived existing mindset that the conservation tools penalize rather than benefit the producer. Leading by example (developing an individual WCA) was suggested as one way to encourage participation. A WCA can be a simple multi-year flex account (MYFA). A WCA is a simple consent agreement that the producer can get out of, but if it works for the producer may convince him to continue or re-enroll. Signage on WCA land was suggested to attract attention.

A multi-year flex account (MYFA) is a **5-year term permit** that temporarily replaces an existing (or base) water right. This term permit allows the water right holder to exceed their annual authorized quantity in any year but restricts total pumping over the 5-year period.

Discussion of some organizations not behind WCAs occurred. The term permit component being one obstacle, possibly misunderstood. Jim Sipes noted the KFB letter concerning the term permits, was not approved by the KFB board. It was

noted that a proposed rule change would allow term permits for up to 20 years (presently 5 years) making it a better tool for water management.

Ideas included: a glossary of terms be developed to aid in public relations and understanding; the term water bank is intuitive and easy to understand; demonstrate economic advantage to conserve; suggest no cut at first so whatever is saved is conservation; think and start small conservation to gain understanding; RAC as a marketing tool; master irrigation program as in north plains Texas and use as eligibility points for EQIP and other programs.

WCA information can be found at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/managing-kansas-water-resources/wca>.

Discussion of HB 2245, which KLA testified against occurred. KDA has a working committee developing a new proposal to be shared with water congress and the RACs in the future.

Discussion occurred on S Sub HB 2059 concerning filing fees and time frames for surface waters appropriations. The bill is now in conference committee to allow for House review. KDA has suggested an amendment to address the timeline.

KDA reported that a hearing was held on metering in GMD2, and full closure to new appropriations in GMDs 3 and 4. For tools such as WCAs, water use history 2003-2012 is being used to avoid driving up use in 2013 & 2014.

It was noted the Kansas Water Authority position is for more transparency on the bill.

Water Technology Farm Overview: Tracy Streeter reported that the Tom Willis Water Technology Farm (Finney County) is underway, installing equipment next week. The project includes many partners supplying expertise and or equipment; a WCA, a weather station, index well and economic component. The budget is around \$170,000.

There is a second WTF in Finney County that will receive monitoring assistance this year and one in Pawnee County. Next year it is anticipated one will be in GMD 1

Blue Ribbon Task Force was described by Tracy Streeter (information at www.kwo.org/BlueRibbonTaskForce.html). The next meeting will be April 19 in the Statehouse. Discussion resulted in no RAC testimony but encouragement to individuals to testify as they see fit.

Agency Updates

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #3: Mark Rude noted GMD 3 is funded through water and land assessments, presently at 12 cents per acre-foot. To fund the “aqueduct” project that would need to be raised to 48 cents. He noted GMD2 is accessing the maximum allowed at \$1.00 acre-foot. Anything assessed for Kansas Water Plan Fund would affect GMDs.

Action Plan for Priority Goal: a simplified action plan was distributed by Diane for comment and possible use in reporting to KWA in May.

Future Meetings

Kansas Water Authority: May 18-19, Oakley KS, RAC Chair or designee attend
Cimarron RAC: tentative early August favored.

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
1 pm January 19, 2016
Liberal, Kansas

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Proposed Category</i>	<i>Present</i>
Nick Hatcher	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	Yes
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public	Yes
Michael Bryant	SW, HS, GR, ME, ST Counties	Agriculture 2	Yes
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Yes
Kirk Heger	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	Yes
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	Yes
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	Yes
Danny Law	Ulysses, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	No
Rosanne Price	Meade, KS	At Large Public	Yes
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	Yes
Jim Sipes	Stanton County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Yes
Ellen Verell	Meade, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Yes
Michael Arndt	SV County	At Large Public	Yes

Others in attendance:

Jason Norquest (GMD3), Mike Meyer (KDA-DWR), Robert Pierce (High Plains Leader), Brenda Carrasco (Sunflower Broadcasting), Dick Verell, John T Smith, Erich Glave (KDHE), Nancy Allen (Master Gardener), Kylee Harrison (SW Co. Extension), Joshua Morris (SV Co. Extension), Brad Niehues, Kenny Sullivan (KCC), Sherri Martin (SV CO. CD), Gary Boldt, Loren Seaman (Seaman Crop Consultant), Gerald Deckman (Seaman Crop Consultant), Isaya Kisekka (KSU R&E), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions: Nick Hatcher welcomed everyone to the RAC meeting. Self introductions were made by everyone.

The draft agenda was accepted for this meeting.

Meeting Notes: The October meeting notes were accepted as provided.

Review Priority Goal: Nick Hatcher reviewed the goal for which the RAC is developing the first action plan. “If individuals elect to conserve then they would be afforded flexibility (e.g. - allowing quantities to be moved, water bank movement, water conservation areas, etc.) Individuals may choose to remain with current water use but not be afforded the flexibilities.” It was noted that is an educational component getting information out to achieve this.

Groundwater savings/aquifer decline reduction efforts - GMD #3 Update: Jason Norquest reviewed water related activities important to GMD3 including:

- RCPP (regional conservation program project) to use moisture probes, telemetry and crop consultants to monitor moisture needs in irrigated crops. There is approximately \$1.9 million for use in the five GMDs, with a \$6,000 per farmer cap that targets high producing wells.
- SB322 concerning water transfers to adjust the present statutory application fee structure. This relates to alternative supplies for the area.

- Continues to work to understand the economics relationship to water in Kansas.
- Development of Water Conservation Areas (WCA) could be important, the first in the area has been passed by GMD3
- Providing input on rule and regulation development and updating the GMDs management plan which includes rules and regulations on water rights and their management in the area.

Discussion included noting GMD3 is closed to new appropriations and has been using planned depletion formula of 40% in 25 years; a producer should start on a WCA with DWR and the GMD; and high value water such as at dairy and feedlots can use a WCA to get dual use on their appropriations.

Update on Water Conservation Areas: Mike Meyer explained and discussion further clarified that WCAs are voluntary for the producer to improve the flexibility (use) of their water right. Generally a water budget is agreed upon in a consent agreement with the Chief Engineer. They can be a group of water right holders or an individual. The water rights are not permanently changed; rather a water budget is set up with conditions that allow some flexibility the holder has defined, with a water savings component. Information can be found at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/managing-kansas-water-resources/wca>. This information includes the approve WCA in the Good land area and the nearly in place one in Stanton County. LEMA is another tool for a group of water rights that works through a GMD.

Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) is also a tool to conserve.

There was consensus that the RAC should encourage participation in the use of these tools to reduce water use.

Mobile Drip Irrigation Evaluation: Isaya Kisekk provided an overview of the MDI technology evaluation which compared evaporative losses from MDI & LESA (in canopy spray nozzles) irrigation methods. In addition to nozzles, two well capacities (300 gpm and 600 gpm) were evaluated. Due to the unusually wet year, some results were inconclusive, however, for the 300 gpm wells, MDI fields had more end of season water and MDI was shown to have lower soil water evaporation. The research will continue.

Water Technology Farm Overview: Diane Knowles explained that Water Technology Farms are Field Scale Demonstration of water savings technologies to be tried (if possible) in each of the Ogallala Regions in Kansas. The idea, part of the 50-Year Vision, would partner landowner(s), local, state and federal entities, water infrastructure manufacturers and others for implementation of technology farms. Preference is to promote technology farm in conjunction with a LEMA or Water Conservation Area and could work in tandem with alternative crops and tillage methods. The only requirement is the landowner/operator allow information and data to be shared and allow access to the property for ongoing evaluation, tours, etc. Funding would be used for equipment purchase/installation, technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation and education and outreach.

Action Plan for Priority Goal: Discussion of the action plan was brainstorming of how to get technology that saves water into use in the region. Communication of advantages and examples of WCAs was a theme of the discussion. The following list was developed of educational opportunities in the region:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • County Extension meetings | • Corn Growers and other commodity groups |
| • Southwest Irrigator Association | • Seed Dealer Meetings/dinners |
| • GMD3 Annual Meeting | • Kansas Farm Bureau |

Chairman, Nick requested RAC members share names and contacts with DWR and GMD3.



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Very important to build a network to get information out.

For the action plan - develop a statement about funding to support research on conservation related technology and ensuring the statutory transfer of the SGF to KWPF occur.

Nick instructed committee members to email Diane ideas to develop a list for discussion at the next and future meetings.

Public Input - none

Future Meetings

Kansas Water Authority: January 27th – 28th Topeka, KS, RAC Chair or designee attend

Cimarron RAC: tentative Date: April 4, Location: Liberal

Membership: Nick Hatcher, Chair, Liberal, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Kirk Heger, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Danny Law, Ulysses, KS; Rosanne Price, Meade, KS; Bret Rooney, Satanta, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Ellen Verell, Meade, KS; Michael Arndt, Moscow, KS; **KWO Planner:** Diane Knowles